Civil Bench Bar Trial Skills Workshop Brings Judges and Trial Lawyers Together to Showcase Local Talent

On May 5, 2025, the Civil Bench Bar section hosted *Trial Advocacy In Action: The Power of Story, Skills & Persuasive Performance*, a hands-on skills workshop held in Department 19 of the Sonoma County Superior Court. Judges Pardo, Broderick, English, and Gaskell joined forces with local trial lawyers for the all-day session, which drew over 50 attorneys and law students from around the North Bay.

Using a wrongful death car accident fact pattern in a mock trial setting, a diverse line-up of lawyers and judges demonstrated key components of trial practice, including opening statements, direct and cross-examinations of fact and expert witnesses, and closing arguments. Interactive discussions between presenters, the Bench, and members of the audience after each segment offered valuable feedback and practical insights into persuasive courtroom advocacy.

The day concluded with a festive Cinco de Mayo reception, providing attendees with an opportunity to relax and connect with colleagues and members of the judiciary. Special thanks to Stephanie Rothberg, Pamela Stevens, and Patricia Medina of Spaulding McCullough & Tansil, Regan Masi of Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz, LLP, and to Judge Oscar Pardo for their efforts coordinating the program, along with the many volunteer presenters.

The Civil Bench Bar section looks forward to continuing to host programming to help practitioners hone their skills.

- Stephanie Rothberg, Senior Counsel with Spaulding McCullough & Tansil. Stephanie joined SMT in 2018 and her practice encompasses general civil litigation, including business, employment, premises liability, construction defect, mechanic liens, real property disputes, and trust and estate litigation.